

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services  
600 East Boulevard Avenue, Bismarck ND 58505**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
July 21, 2015**

Public Information Contacts: Heather Steffl, 701-328-4933, or LuWanna Lawrence 701-328-1892

## **Councils that promote independent living and employment of people with disabilities to hold joint meeting**

BISMARCK, N.D. – North Dakota’s State Rehabilitation Council and Statewide Independent Living Council, which both work to assure that people with disabilities can live and work alongside other North Dakotans, are holding a joint meeting on Thursday, July 23, 2015, from 1 to 5 p.m., at the Comfort Inn, 1030 E. Interstate Ave., in Bismarck. The meeting will be held in Room C, and the public is welcome to attend.

“Both councils have unique missions but are committed to increasing opportunities and improving the lives of North Dakotans with disabilities,” said Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Director Russ Cusack. “We hold a joint meeting every other year to strengthen communication between the councils and to build support for programs and initiatives of common interest.”

During the joint meeting, members of the two councils will hear an update from Department of Human Services (DHS) Deputy Director Tom Solberg, and Christine Hogan of the North Dakota Protection and Advocacy Project will provide a 2015 legislative summary.

In addition, each council will present an overview of their structure and operations, the effects of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) on their council, and council initiatives.

The councils will meet independently on Friday, July 24, from 9 a.m. to noon, Central Time.

Statewide Independent Living Council members will meet at the Comfort Inn to hear reports from subcommittees and to discuss state plan progress supporting independent living, developing resources, and advocating for full community participation of North Dakotans with disabilities.

Members will also discuss the 2016 needs assessment and the funding formula for the centers for independent living. A guest speaker will share information about the Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living. The full agenda is online at [www.nd.gov/dhs/info/publicnotice/index.html](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/info/publicnotice/index.html).

The Statewide Rehabilitation Council, which advises the DHS Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) on services placing people with disabilities in the workforce will meet on Friday at the division’s offices in the department’s Prairie Hills Plaza location at 1237 W. Divide Ave., in Bismarck. Attendees should enter the building through Door 2.

– MORE –

## **Councils serving people with disabilities to meet – page 2**

Members will hear an appeals report and a report on the North Dakota Association of Community Providers' conference. Regional DVR administrators and council committees will update members on new developments and ongoing work. The complete agenda is online at [www.nd.gov/dhs/info/publicnotice/index.html](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/info/publicnotice/index.html).

Individuals who need auxiliary aids or services to participate in the meetings or who would like more information on the advisory councils can contact the division at 701-328-8950, toll-free 800-755-2745, ND Relay TTY 800-366-6888, or [dhsvr@nd.gov](mailto:dhsvr@nd.gov).

The governor appoints individuals to both councils. Information about the councils is on the Web at [www.nd.gov/dhs/dvr/councils-partners/index.html](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/dvr/councils-partners/index.html).

###